

## BUSINESS OUTLOOK IS VERY GOOD

Reports From All Sections of the Country Indicate Big Boom.

### FALL PROSPECTS EXCELLENT

An Increase of Shipments of Wheat to Europe Is Noted—General Outlook in All Trades Far Exceeds Expectations.

New York, Sept. 12.—Reports from the International Mercantile agency throughout the United States on the state of trade are as follows: Distribution of general merchandise on the whole is quite active, notably so at New York, St. Louis, Boston and Chicago. Jobbing in the northwest is checked by late grain deliveries. Dry goods and clothing are most active at Baltimore, reflecting confidence at the south. The like is true in New England. Fall outlook at the east is excellent. Chicago dealers in implements, furniture, hardware and wearing apparel report gains in orders.

Influx of country buyers into St. Louis stimulates dry goods and millinery lines, Kansas and Nebraska buying freely, especially from flooded districts. Mercantile collections are slow at the south and northwest because of the crops being late, but this is less noticeable at the southwest.

Long Strike Broken. Philadelphia's long drawn-out strike is practically broken, but all the men have not gone back yet. A general curtailment of anthracite coal production is predicted through half time at the mines, which will affect 150,000 miners, and may curtail wage distribution by nearly \$2,000,000. The outlook is for curtailed pig iron production, late cuts in prices putting more stress on a non-paying basis. Rumors of reduction in steel prices are not confirmed. There is less activity in glass, building and silk and cotton industries for the moment, but early revivals are counted on in all of them. The drop of pig to \$17 is expected to bring the steel trust to the market for 75,000 or more tons. The Harvester trust must also buy heavily soon.

Bad weather is delaying threshing and harvesting of spring wheat, and with continuance promises to be serious. Lack of competition in the Atlantic coast tobacco section keeps prices about normally low.

Condition of Corn Favorable. A good portion of the western and central wheat crop has been saved from possible damage by frost by eight days of favorable conditions, including a warm wave throughout the belt, tempered by light, but beneficial rains. An increase of Chicago shipments of wheat and flour to Europe is noted.

INDICTED MEN NAMED. The Six Persons Named in the Seven Indictments Returned by the Grand Jury at Washington.

Washington, Sept. 12.—United States District Attorney Beach announces that the six persons named in the seven indictments returned by the grand jury last Tuesday are: George W. Beavers, former chief of the division of salaries and allowances, post office department; August W. Machen, former general superintendent of the free delivery system, post office department; James W. Erwin, former post office inspector, with headquarters in San Francisco; George H. Huntington and Isaac S. McGlehan, both of New York city, owners of the Columbia Supply Co. of that city, and Eugene D. Scheble, of Toledo, O., a dentist and interested in the firm of Maybury & Ellis, of Detroit, Mich., letter box manufacturers. Beavers, Machen and Erwin are named jointly in one indictment for conspiracy to defraud the United States.

Another indictment is against McGlehan, Huntington and Machen for conspiracy to defraud the United States, and still another is against the same three for conspiracy to commit bribery, both under Section 5440, R. S. Scheble and Machen are indicted jointly for conspiracy against the United States, and again for conspiracy to commit bribery. Another indictment is against McGlehan and Huntington for bribery, and the last is against Machen singly for accepting bribes under Section 5501, R. S.

DIED ON BOARD A TRAIN. State Representative William L. Dawson, of Illinois, a Victim of Rapid Consumption.

Topeka, Kas., Sept. 12.—Special advice from Hankato, Kas., state that William L. Dawson, a member of the Illinois legislature, died on the Rock Island train near there at 9:45 this morning. Mr. Dawson was a victim of quick consumption, and had been traveling for his health.

Carload of Powder Let Go. Eldorado, Kas., Sept. 12.—A carload of powder set on a Frisco siding near Beaumont by a freight crew which did not want to handle it while switching, got beyond control and ran several miles on a branch line towards Winfield, colliding with a train which had left that station shortly before, and exploded, killing two and injuring two more.

In addition, the explosion tore up several rods of track and dismantled a locomotive. The shock of the explosion shook the ground for miles around.

Lincoln Memorial Room. Springfield, Ill., Sept. 12.—The Illinois Historical society appointed Capt. J. H. Burnham to visit St. Louis to attend the meeting of the Illinois commission to the Louisiana Purchase exposition and arrange for the Lincoln memorial room in the Illinois building.

Destroyed by Lightning. Mascoutah, Ill., Sept. 12.—A large stable on the farm of Mr. Peter Gutwine was struck by lightning and burned. All the contents, wheat, oats and hay, were destroyed.

## LIFE-SAVERS AT THE FAIR

Exhibit of United States Life-Saving Service at World's Fair.

The Government Has Decided on the Exhibition of This Service and Make It Most Elaborate.

Washington, Sept. 10.—The treasury department has fully determined to make an exhibit of the United States life-saving service at the St. Louis World's fair. It will be on a larger scale than ever before attempted. The question whether there would be an exhibit was fully settled Wednesday morning, when a letter was received from the exposition authorities containing definite information that a lake for the life-saving service would be furnished. Plans of the lake and a description of its location also came in. The lake will be 1,500 by 550 feet and 9 feet deep. It will be in the heart of the exposition grounds, between the Agricultural building on the south and the French building on the north. The banks will probably be embellished with water lilies.

The site in part had been assigned to Ceylon, but Ceylon will be given another location. The department will send 18 men to the exposition. They will give two exhibitions daily, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. At the Buffalo exposition there were but 11 men and one exhibition a day. The equipment will be the most modern. The men will be located in a house erected close to the lake. At first the exposition authorities wanted the life-saving service to share a lake with the Philippines. This the government declined. Chief Clerk Hills and Capt. Kimball both visited the exposition grounds some weeks ago, and concluded it would be unsatisfactory to compel the men to give exhibitions in a lake filthy from the sewage of the Filipino village. The department was on the point of refusing to exhibit the life-saving service, but the arrangement for a separate lake has put a new aspect on the matter.

### KILLED BY AN AUTOMOBILE.

Fires of Machine Exploded, Causing It to Run Into Spectator, Killing Him Instantly.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 10.—While Barney Oldfield's racing automobile was running nearly sixty miles an hour at the Grosse Pointe track, Wednesday afternoon, in the ten-mile open event, one of the front tires on the machine burst through and exploded, throwing the car into the fence and injuring Frank Shearer, a spectator, to the extent that he died in an ambulance en route to the hospital. Oldfield, who kept his seat, had a marvelous escape from death. He received several cuts about the body and had one rib broken.

Shearer was standing against the fence and the car struck him squarely, breaking both legs in several places and fracturing his skull. He was thrown 75 feet and never recovered consciousness. Oldfield had presence of mind enough to throw himself backward flat on the deck of the car, which went crashing through a low tree and landed a complete wreck 50 feet from where it went through the fence. A brother of Shearer's was standing near him, and had a narrow escape.

### RAIN STORM IN KANSAS CITY.

Street Cars in Kansas City Put Out of Business—Many Families Forced to Move.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 10.—The heaviest rain storm in the history of western Missouri fell in Kansas City Tuesday night and Wednesday. At noon the storm was severe and rain fell in torrents. For a time the street cars were put out of commission and business practically suspended. In six hours, according to measurements taken at the office of the local weather bureau 4.20 inches of rain fell. In Rosedale, a suburb, water covers the streets to a depth of two feet, and cars are being run to that place. Turkey and O. K. creeks rose rapidly, and families living along the banks were forced to leave their homes. The rise brought down a large amount of drift and for a time it was feared that the bridge which carries the flow line across Turkey creek, and which supplies Kansas City with water, would be carried away.

### TORNADO STRUCK QUINCY, ILL.

Dozens of Houses Demolished—Occupants Have Narrow Escape—One Fatally Injured.

Quincy, Ill., Sept. 10.—A tornado struck the eastern outskirts of this city last night, sweeping to fragments a half dozen houses, the occupants of which escaped without serious injuries except in one instance. Mrs. John Schneitzle was badly injured in the wreck of her residence at Twenty-third and Ohio streets, not only being maimed by falling debris, but being plumed between timbers and a cook stove in which she had been starting a fire. Her injuries are considered fatal.

### A Foolish Canadian.

Chicago, Sept. 10.—Nicholas J. Plumb, a French-Canadian, Tuesday shot a shot at an American flag that hung in front of 607 West Forty-sixth street, and was almost lynched by a mob before the police could rescue him.

### Gov. Dockery Incognito.

Jefferson City, Mo., Sept. 10.—Gov. Dockery is going about the city incognito. He has had his whiskers shaved off, is in checkered overalls and there'll be among the newspaper artists to get new pictures of him.

### An Official Opinion.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 10.—St. Louis may become the national headquarters of the rearranged department of the Missouri, is the opinion of the army officers at present connected with the headquarters of that department, which are now located in Omaha.

### Alpine Guides Descend the Jungfrau.

Geneva, Sept. 10.—Ulrich and Henri Fuhrer, Alpine guides, accompanied by a tourist, has descended the Jungfrau on its eastern side, a feat that, hitherto, had never been accomplished.

## STORM DEVASTATES GREAT BRITAIN

Bodies Washing Ashore Swell the Terrible List of Fatalities.

### MANY VESSELS AND CREW LOST

All the Coast Towns Suffered Incalculable Damage—In Addition to Deaths From Drowning Are Many Other Fatalities.

London, Sept. 12.—While the details of the havoc wrought by the great storm which raged over the British isles, Thursday, are necessarily incomplete the reports coming in from all parts of the United Kingdom show that the devastation was general, and it is feared that the loss of life is much greater than was at first supposed.

Vessels With Entire Crews Lost. Lloyds already report over fifty serious casualties to shipping. All sorts of vessels were caught in the gale and many foundered, several with their entire crews. A great number of minor craft is believed to be lost, and the bodies washing ashore continue to swell the terrible list of fatalities.

Seventy-Two Miles an Hour. The gale sprang up with sudden fury from the southwest, and the wind blew with a velocity at times reaching 72 miles an hour, and this continued for several hours.

### Sheep and Cattle Drowned.

All the coast towns suffered more or less, and the agricultural sections. A interior report incalculable damage owing to the late harvest. The beautiful hop gardens of Kent have been ruined, and in many places the valleys of the Thames and the Severn have been submerged, quantities of sheep and cattle being drowned.

### London Suffers Great Loss.

For some time telegraphic communication was completely stopped and the land lines are still interrupted. The telegraph companies report that the wires and poles are down everywhere. Great numbers of fine trees in the parks of London and other cities were torn up by the roots or stripped of their branches, and the list of minor damage casualties is amazing. In addition to deaths from drowning reports from the inland give many fatalities resulting from various causes incident to the storm.

### France Also Suffers.

Paris, Sept. 12.—Telegrams continue to report great ravages caused by the storm, which still sweeps the coast of Brittany and the English channel, during Friday, but is reported to be slightly abating Friday night. The principal sufferers are the fishermen, many of whose boats have been wrecked, through the loss of life is small. The pilot boat Le Havre was wrecked near Cherbourg, and the captain and two sailors were drowned. The storm, which was accompanied by a heavy hailstorm, extended inland devastating the fruit trees and vines, and especially in the champagne region around Rheims. The heavy rainfall also caused floods which have done much damage. Around Lille the hail did considerable injury, and trees were uprooted and roofs blown off.

### TO VISIT UNITED STATES.

The British Home Squadron Will Visit the United States Late in the Fall.

London, Sept. 12.—The Press association announced that the British home squadron will be sent to the United States on a courtesy visit in return for the American action in sending a squadron to Portsmouth.

The home squadron, which is commanded by Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson, has just returned from a successful participation in the naval maneuvers, and will sail, September 16, for a six weeks' cruise for Scotland. Shortly afterwards, according to the announcement, the squadron will sail for America.

The British home squadron consists of the first-class battleships Ben Bow, Empress of India, Hood, Revenge, Royal Oak, Royal Sovereign and Sanspareil, the second-class battleship Anson, the first-class cruisers Edgar and Hawke, the second-class cruisers Dido, Mercury and Venus, and several other powerful cruisers.

### THE WORK OF BURGLARS.

The Family of an Indiana Farmer Chloroformed and Their Home Ransacked.

Wabash, Ind., Sept. 12.—Burglars early Friday morning chloroformed the family of Chris Harnish, a farmer living near Dora. They ransacked the house, securing considerable money and jewelry. As a result of the chloroform Miss Lulu Harnish, a daughter, is in a critical condition, and the other members of the family are suffering from the effects of it.

### Count Tolstoy's Birthday.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 12.—Count Tolstoy spent his seventy-fifth birthday in strict privacy among his children at Tula. He was in the best of health. The papers printed glowing eulogies of the count on the occasion of his birthday.

### Commander Perry Granted Leave.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Orders granting three years' leave of absence to Commander Perry, of the navy, beginning April 1 next, were issued Friday. He is now on duty at the bureau of yards and docks.

### Rioters' Cases Postponed.

Evansville, Ind., Sept. 12.—The case of the alleged rioters have been postponed until Monday, September 14, when the trial of William Trimble will begin. It will probably take a day to try this one case.

### Millionaire's Daughter a Suicide.

San Francisco, Sept. 12.—Miss Isabelle Duncan Clark, daughter of the late William Squire Clark, the San Jose millionaire, committed suicide by asphyxiation in her apartments at the McNitt hotel Thursday.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

Rev. Dr. R. F. Coyle Believes in Ultimate Union of All Branches.

It Will Come About As a Result of the Reconstruction of the Creed of the Denomination.

Denver, Col., Sept. 12.—Rev. Dr. R. F. Coyle, moderator of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church, who has just returned to his home in this city from a lecture tour in the east, believes that the time is not far distant when the 12 different Presbyterian churches in the United States will become one. This probability, he says, is due to the reconstructing of the creed of the denomination which took place last May. Calvinistic and Arminian lines, which have so long kept his and the Cumberland Presbyterian churches separated, have now, he says, been effaced, and at present no distinctions other than ceremonial separate the two great religious bodies that began as one in the days of Cromwell. "Another step," said Dr. Coyle, "that our church took at the last general assembly in May, and one that tends toward the unity idea, is to emphasize Christian education. With intellectual development, many sordid distinctions that tend to keep churches separated will be obliterated.

"Our church now has an educational committee, and upon it has been imposed the duty of raising \$12,000,000 for educational purposes. Most of this money will be spent upon schools in the west, for our institutions of learning in the east are in good shape financially."

### COMMANDER BLACK'S STAFF.

Commander-in-Chief Black of the Grand Army of the Republic Announces His Staff.

Chicago, Sept. 12.—Gen. John C. Black, recently elected commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, has appointed his personal staff and issued his first general order in the form of a fraternal greeting to the members of the organization. In the ensuing year the national headquarters will be in Memorial Hall, Chicago, and will be in charge of Adjutant-General Charles A. Partridge.

The following were named as members of the staff: Adjutant-General—Charles A. Partridge, of the department of Illinois. Quartermaster-General—Charles Burrows, of the department of New Jersey. Inspector General—Edwin B. Messer, of the department of Iowa.

Judge Advocate General—James Tanner, of the department of New York.

### STERN JUSTICE AT MANILA.

Government Officials, Convicted of Misappropriating Public Money, Severely Punished.

Manila, Sept. 12.—Customs Inspector Coates and Lieut. Osborne, constabulary supply officer, both stationed at San Fernando, who were arrested recently on the charge of misappropriating government funds, have been tried and convicted of the crime. Lieut. Osborne has been sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Dean Tompkins, treasurer of the province of La Union, has also been convicted of forgery, but sentence has been reserved. The minimum penalty for the crime is imprisonment for 12 years.

### WILL VISIT ANTIETAM.

President Will Make An Address at Dedication of New Jersey Monument.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Sept. 12.—Arrangements for the trip of President Roosevelt to the Antietam battlefield next Thursday are about completed. The presidential party, accompanied by Gov. Murphy and other prominent officials of New Jersey, will arrive at the battlefield about nine o'clock in the morning.

The ceremonies incident to the dedication of the monument erected to the memory of the New Jersey soldiers will take place soon afterward. These will include addresses by President Roosevelt and Gov. Murphy and music by a band.

### SENATOR HANNA VERY SICK.

His Affliction Will Probably Prevent His Managing Next Republican Campaign.

Cleveland, O., Sept. 12.—Senator Hanna is threatened with a critical illness. His doctors, while contending that rest will restore his health, admit he is a very sick man. All of the senator's engagements out of town have been cancelled, with the exception of the McKinley monument dedication at Toledo on Monday, which he hopes to attend for the sake of associations. The senator for two years has not enjoyed a day of absolute health, and his condition has grown worse.

### Summoned Before Grand Jury.

Springfield, Mo., Sept. 12.—All the cashiers of the four state banks of Springfield and Thos. R. Gibson, secretary of the Springfield Trust Co., have been summoned to Jefferson City to give testimony before the Cole county grand jury that convenes next Monday.

### Killed While Resisting Arrest.

Camden, N. J., Sept. 12.—Alexander Lindsey and Joseph Dougherty were shot and killed last night by two deputies who were trying to arrest them on the charge of assaulting Daniel Stockdale, an aged farmer.

### Rescued From Death By Fire.

New York, Sept. 12.—More than twenty women and children were rescued from a tenement house fire early Friday morning. A dozen persons were slightly injured. The fire started in a saloon and spread to a six-story double tenement adjoining.

### Much Noise But No Damage.

Cripple Creek, Col., Sept. 12.—Unknown persons set off about fifty pounds of dynamite on the Chance claim, just above the Moose property, Thursday night. No damage.

## POSSE CAPTURES WM. HOFFMANN

Slayer of William Brandt Caught Near Belleville, Ill.

### SHOWS NO REMORSE FOR CRIME

Found Asleep by St. Clair County Officers and Makes No Resistance—Declares He Feared Father-in-Law Would Kill Him.

Waterloo, Ill., Sept. 14.—William Hoffmann, who killed his father-in-law, William Brandt, at Maestown, Ill., last Monday evening, was captured on the outskirts of Belleville, Ill., Saturday afternoon, by a force of deputy sheriffs under leadership of Deputy Sheriff Klamm.

In a state of mental and physical collapse, he fell asleep beneath a tree on the side of the road, and when he awoke it was to look into the muzzles of two repeating shotguns and two revolvers. He made no resistance, as he was unarmed. He was delivered to Sheriff Thomas Ruch, of Waterloo, at East St. Louis.

### Lynching Threatened.

Sheriff Ruch and Deputy William Tolin arrived at ten o'clock with Hoffmann, from Belleville, on the Mobile & Ohio passenger train. Over four hundred persons were at the depot.

Several shouted, "Lynch him! Hang him!" but a large force of police and deputy sheriffs forced the people back. Hoffmann was pale and nervous and trembled at the large crowd. With his hands and feet cuffed he was escorted to a carriage and quickly driven to the Monroe county jail, where he was placed in cell No. 6. He refused to talk to anyone, and lay down on his bed.

### Conscience Troubled Him.

"I am glad it is all over," said Hoffmann. "My conscience bothered me so much that I haven't any nerves left. I am sorry only for the sake of my wife and my children. It had come to me that a state that one of us would be killed, and I believed that he intended killing me when I shot him."

"I was out squirrel shooting Monday afternoon, and on my way home I stopped at my father-in-law's home. I held the reins of my mule in one hand and with the other knocked at his door. My father-in-law answered the knock, and asked me what I wanted. I told him that we needed some money. He got mad when I said this and said: 'I will give you money,' turning on his heel."

### Claims Self-Defense.

"I thought he was going to get his gun to shoot me, so I fired first. I then went home, told my wife what had happened and stayed there until 5 p. m. Tuesday. I thought the officers would come after me, but as they didn't I took \$20 and bade my wife and children good-bye and started walking down the Mobile & Ohio railroad tracks."

"I passed through Burksville, Red Bud and Sparta. At the latter place I took a train for Cairo, where I arrived at two o'clock Wednesday afternoon. From Cairo I went to Metropolis by boat, and from there to Paducah by rail. From Paducah I came to Golconda, Pope county, by boat. There I had my mustache shaved off."

"I saw by the papers that a big reward had been offered for my arrest, and I thought I would try to escape, as my identity had not yet been suspected. I went to East St. Louis and registered at the Wies hotel Friday night. I got up early Saturday morning and caught the first car for Belleville."

"I met a man driving a lumber wagon, and he gave me a lift for a mile, and I helped him unload his lumber. I then walked to the big tree, where I lay down to rest, as I was very tired. When I awoke the officers had me surrounded with their weapons. I was surprised at first, but now I do not care. I thought I was protecting my life when I killed my father-in-law."

### EXTRA SESSION DEFERRED.

The Plan to Convene Congress in October Has Been Abandoned by the President.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Sept. 14.—After mature consideration and consultation in person and by mail with members of both the senate and the house of representatives, President Roosevelt has abandoned the suggestion that congress be called into extraordinary session in October.

The extraordinary session, which he announced many months ago would be held this fall, will be called, according to present plans, to meet on November 4.

Notwithstanding the fact that the suggestion of an October session of congress came from prominent senators, who warmly advocated its adoption, the proposition was not received with favor by members of congress generally.

### Reception to Admiral Dewey.

Saratoga, N. Y., Sept. 13.—The informal reception tendered Admiral Dewey, United States navy, by the citizens of Saratoga Springs at the Saratoga club, Friday night, was one of the most brilliant affairs of the September season.

### Victim of the Mafia.

New York, Sept. 13.—After being dogged for five years by the vengeance of the Mafia, Avanzo Diarrino was lured into a hallway, Friday afternoon, by a stylishly-dressed woman, and shot to death by two men.

### Supplies for Grand Cayman.

Mobile, Ala., Sept. 13.—The Norwegian steamer Condor has sailed with supplies for the storm sufferers of Grand Cayman. Funds with which the supplies were purchased were raised by private subscription.

### Stern Extradition Hearing.

Toronto, Ont., Sept. 13.—Judge Winchester has fixed the date for hearing the motion for extradition against Leopold J. Stern, of Baltimore, indicted in Washington for alleged postal frauds, for Saturday, September 19.



### A SERIOUS CHARGE.

Great Railroad Pays the Bill of the Presidential Swing Around the Circle.

The Washington correspondent of the Providence Journal pays the following left-handed compliment to President Roosevelt: "It is a fact that on his recent tour the railroad company (the Pennsylvania) on which he started from Washington, and in which he returned, paid all the bills."

In view of the fact that the President had only a few weeks before he entered on this tour signed the union station act, which appropriated millions of dollars to that particular company, this is an exceedingly grave accusation. If it does not place Mr. Roosevelt in the same category with Littaure, Machen and Beavers, it certainly comes very near it. If the railroad company didn't bribe him technically, it certainly gave him a liberal reward for approving an unconstitutional and dishonest measure by which the people of the United States and the District of Columbia were grossly robbed.

The Springfield Republican of August 26, publishes under the headline, "The Cost of the Tour," a very severe criticism of the president's course in this matter. It is a subject which congress should not fail to investigate, lest its own members fall under the suspicion of sustaining similar relations to the same railroad company.

Every year the same railroad company entertains as its guests at Atlantic City all the correspondents of the great daily newspapers, paying not only traveling expenses, but all other expenses of those who accept its hospitality. And all the great newspapers, like the president, approved the legislation above mentioned.

It is also capable of proof that the railroad companies give free passes to congressmen, if not to judges; and we know that many congressmen—all the republicans in congress, at least, favored this legislation.

This method of procuring legislation without paying for it in advance may be properly called credit-bribery—action on the one part with the understanding that there will be reciprocal action on the other at a subsequent period.

It is fortunate for the democratic party that its members in congress opposed this railroad legislation almost unanimously.

### OCTOPUS AFTER ISLANDS.

"Expansion" Is Becoming the Ruling Policy of the Standard Oil Trust.

If Uncle Sam intends to embark permanently in the island business he will have to move rapidly from this time on. Telegraphic advices from New York indicate that the "expansion policy" of the Standard Oil company is about to reach out for the islands of the sea. It has begun with the annexation of an amusement company with a capital of several millions. Not satisfied with benevolently assimilating the islands, the trust proposes to have a monopoly of "loop-the-loops" and "shoot-the-shoots" and other amusements that have made Coney Island noted, says the Chicago Record-Herald.

Of course this is only a beginning. Coney Island will doubtless be only one of a chain of amusement islands, illustrating in an insular way the benefits of combination to the consumer. No one doubts the power of the beneficent trusts to lower the cost of production and thus cheapen prices for the consumer. It must be remembered that it is only a benevolent enterprise so far as the Standard Oil company is concerned. Judging by the history of this great corporation as given by recent chroniclers, it could have no other purpose than that of bringing the islands within reach of the people and raising the standard and quality of the amusements provided.

What does it matter if competition is destroyed? There is no reason why a private individual should own an island or anything else if he hasn't the facilities for developing it or for withstanding competition. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that the millions made by Standard Oil must be invested. They cannot lie around idle. No one need complain then if the company begins picking up islands and ultimately invests in a few countries and perhaps commonwealths. Those who do not like it can easily get off the earth.

Of course, everybody whose interest in affairs is not confined to "society" horse racing and baseball reads what so prominent a person as the secretary of the treasury has to say about the money situation. What Mr. Shaw said in a speech lately was interesting, but it did not throw much practical light on the subject. There was nothing in it that promised, as a general proposition, departure from the dogged policy of surrendering the currency functions of the government to private individuals.—Cincinnati Enquirer

### HURTING THE TRUST.

Twice as Much Coal Being Imported Under Free Coal as in Any Previous Year.

The New York Times of August 31 contained an interview with Mr. George F. Baer, president of the Reading railway, in which he said that coal mines might have to be closed soon and miners thrown out of work because of the difficulty of getting rid of coal, especially of the steam size. The Times report says:

"He said that the plan he had inaugurated when he became president of the Reading of making a reduction of 50 cents a ton in April, and then advancing the price ten cents a month until the figure again reached normal by September 1 had worked very satisfactorily."

Yes, Mr. Divine-rights Baer, it does seem to have worked beautifully—for the coal trust. It is, however, a little hard on a few millions of us coal consumers who now have to pay higher prices for coal than ever before, except during and after the strike of last year. The retail price of anthracite at Washington is now \$7.25 and at Chicago \$7.50 a ton.

Immediately following the Baer interview, the Times contained a dispatch from Pennsylvania saying:

"The Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company has issued a sweeping order closing every one of its washeries that produce small sizes, and other corporations and individual operators have followed suit. It is estimated that there are 2,000,000 tons of small sizes now in stock, for which there is little demand."

The inadequate demand for anthracite coal is said to be partly due to closed mills and to the increased use of soft coal for steam purposes. But the statistics of foreign commerce for the year ending June 30, 1903, offer some additional explanation as to this oversupply of hard coal. They show that we imported, last year, 3,818,189 tons of coal, or nearly 2,000,000 tons more than were imported in any previous year, and that of this amount 207,664 tons were anthracite. This is more than 100 times as much anthracite as was imported in any year since the Dingley bill taxing anthracite became law.

It appears, then, that free coal, while it has not compelled the hard coal trust to lower its prices for ordinary sizes of coal (and this is not strange when it is considered that there is nowhere else anthracite like ours—that is Baer's—to take its place), especially at interior points, has compelled it to reduce prices of its smaller sizes used for making steam and which, therefore, compete with bituminous coal. Nearly all of this imported coal is consumed in New England and on the Pacific coast. It does a great deal to free manufacturers in these sections from the exactions of the hard and soft coal trusts now charging us two or three times a fair price for this bounty of nature. Possibly some mistake was made when the Almighty consigned this most valuable heritage to Mr. Baer to parcel out to the rest of us earth dwellers at so much per ton.

It will be observed that the